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COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM BY THE GERMAN DELEGATION

ON THE APPLICATION OF ITEM 1560

The application of Item 1560 on the different electronic components has led to difficulties as far as interpretation is concerned. A clear-cut distinction between electric and electronic performances and accordingly a distinction between electric and electronic components is not always easy in practise, considering the fast technical development, even if there are general recognised criteria to be found in the relevant special technical literature. According to this literature, performances which are connected with stationary or current electricity are considered as electrical performances which, at the end, result from the proceeding of the smallest electrical carrier, i.e. electrons.

Under special conditions, it is possible, to free these electrons from their firm connection to the material and to let them move as so-called "free electrons" and to control their direction. Only in these last-mentioned cases the notion of "electronics" is used. The American scientists as well limit themselves to so-called "free electrons", when they talk about electronics. The applied electronic uses components, whose action depends on the behavior of free electrons in the space and in non-conducting materials or semi-conductors which therefore represent a special group of the general one "electric components".

It therefore seems to be urgent to limit quite clearly the coverage of the "electronic components" under Item 1560 and to exclude by an additional note such components which are not covered by this definition. The following change of Item 1560 is suggested:

> "Electronic components, n.e.s., designed and/or capable of reliable performance in relation to their electrical and mechanical characteristics and maintaining their design service lifetime while operating:
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> (a) Over the whole range of ambient temperatures extending from below -45°C. to above +100°C.; or
> (b) At ambient temperatures of 200°C. or higher.
>
> Note: Classical components, as resistors, condensers and capacitors do not come under the coverage of this definition."

The German Delegation would be grateful to have the views of the Committee at an early opportunity. Attendance of experts may be advisable.

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